Law Commission's recommendations regarding euthanasia

†29. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission has recommended that the law needs to provide protection for the dying patients and if such patients refuse to receive their treatment, then the charge of attempt of suicide should not be levelled on them;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the suggestion of the Law Commission; and

(c) whether the proposal of the Law Commission has also been referred to the Ministry of Health to seek their opinion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) The Law Commission in its 196th Report on the subject of Medical Treatment to Terminally Ill Patients (Protection of Patients and Medical Practitioners') affirms that Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide are and shall continue to be penal offences. The report has not yet been laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The report is in the process of being laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Delay in disposal of cases

†30. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards a news report in which a main reason for delay in disposal of cases in High Courts has been described as non-availablity of translation from Hindi to English in every case because the High Court rules do not permit adoption of Hindi; and

(b) if so, whether for the speedy disposal of large number of cases pending in High Courts, Government, propose to take any step to amend the High Court rules so that these cases may be disposed of in Hindi also?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) As per available information, no such information has come to the notice of the Government. Article 348(1) of the Constitution of India provides that all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High Court shall be in English language until Parliament by law otherwise provides.

Under Article 348(2) the Governor of the State may with the previous consent of the president, authorize the use of the Hindi language or any other language used for any official purpose of the State, in the proceedings of the High Court having its principal seat in that State provided that decrees, judgements or orders passed by such High Courts shall be in English.

Under Section 7 of the Official Language Act, 1963, the use of Hindi or official language of a State in addition to the English language may be authorized, with the consent of the President of India, by the Governor of the State for the purpose of judgments etc. made by the High Court for that State.

So far the Governors of four States namely; Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have authorized the use of Hindi in addition to English language in the proceedings as well as the judgments, decrees etc. of the High Courts in their States.

Lok Adalats

31. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Lok Adalats organised during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the number of cases disposed of in those Lok Adalats during the above said period, State-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to set up more Lok Adalats during the current financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) A statement showing the number of Lok Adalats organised and cases disposed of year-wise and state-wise during the last three years is enclosed. (*See* below).